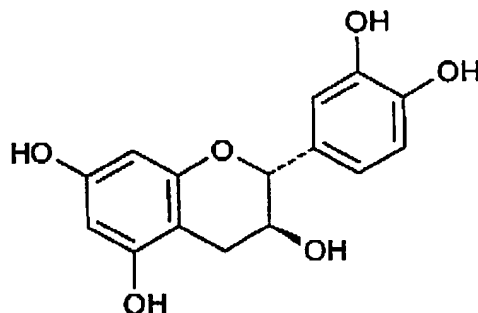


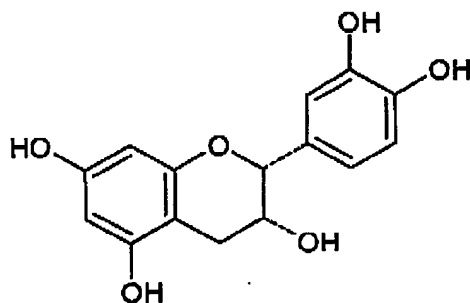
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7. The method of Claim 5, wherein the catechin is



or a gallic ester thereof.

8. The method of Claim 5, wherein the catechin is



or a gallic ester thereof.

9. The method of Claim 5, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from a plant.
10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from a plant from the *Theaceae* plant family.
11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from the plant species *Camellia sinensis*.

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- C1
Contd.
12. A method selected from the group consisting of treatment and/or care of dry skin; increasing the synthesis rate of ceramides in human skin; stimulating sphingolipid synthesis; strengthening the lipid barrier of the human skin and combinations thereof for a human in need thereof which comprises applying to the skin of the human a therapeutically effective amount of an extract from a plant or plant parts which comprises a catechin, a gallic ester of a catechin, or mixtures thereof.

Please cancel claim 26.

Please add new claims 27-31:

- C2
27. The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is treatment and/or care of dry skin.
28. The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is increasing the synthesis rate of ceramides in human skin.
29. The method of claim 28 wherein the ceramides are ceramides 1, 2 and 3.
30. The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is stimulating sphingolipid synthesis.
31. The method of any one of claims 5-12 wherein the method is strengthening the lipid barrier of the human skin.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

REMARKS

Claim 26 has been cancelled and new claims 27-31 have been added. Claims 5-12 and 27-31 are now